AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A biopsy system comprising:

a first placeholder element insertable through tissue to a first selected location in a patient's body, the first placeholder element including a first lumen extending therethrough to a distal opening which, when the first placeholder element is in the first selected location is adjacent to target tissue;

a handle including a channel extending therethrough for ~~receiving the first placeholder element, the channel~~ directing elements inserted thereinto to the first lumen, the handle further including a handle fitting projecting distally from a distally facing surface of the handle configured to be received by a correspondingly shaped placeholder fitting in a proximal end of the first placeholder element and to be removed from the placeholder fitting when the handle fitting and the placeholder fitting are twisted relative to each other ~~being removably coupled to the first placeholder element~~ so that the first placeholder ~~place holder~~ element may be left in the first selected location;

a tissue sampling element insertable to the first selected location via the first lumen for obtaining a sample of tissue from the first selected location, the tissue sampling element being removable from the first lumen while leaving the first placeholder element at the first selected location; and

a tissue treatment element insertable to the first selected location via the first lumen.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the handle includes a sampling element actuator for operating the tissue sampling element when the tissue sampling element has been inserted therethrough to the first lumen.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 3, wherein the handle further comprises a sampling safety lock which, when in a locked configuration, prevents actuation of the sampling element actuator.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a second placeholder element insertable through tissue to a second selected location in a patient's body the second placeholder element including a second lumen extending therethrough, the second placeholder element removably receivable in the channel.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein the first and second placeholder elements comprise identification markings.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The system according to claim 5, further comprising a first luer attachment for coupling the first placeholder element to the channel.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue sampling element comprises a biopsy needle.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the biopsy needle includes a suction lumen for applying suction to a sample of tissue for removal of the sample from the body.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 8, wherein the tissue sampling element comprises a second luer attachment for coupling the tissue sampling element to the channel.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue sampling element further comprises an in-vivo tissue treatment device.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element is insertable through the first lumen of the first placeholder element when the first placeholder element is separate from the handle.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element comprises one of a monopolar and a bipolar electrode.

16. (Currently Amended) A biopsy system comprising:

a first placeholder element insertable through tissue to a first selected location in a patient's body, the first placeholder element including a first element guide;

a handle including a channel extending therethrough for ~~receiving the first placeholder element, the channel~~ directing elements inserted thereinto to the first element guide, the handle including a handle fitting projecting distally from a distally facing surface of the handle configured to be received by and removed from a proximal end of the first placeholder element;

a tissue sampling element insertable to the first selected location through the first element guide for obtaining a sample of tissue from the first selected location, the tissue sampling element being removable from the first element guide while leaving the first placeholder element at the first selected location; and

a tissue treatment element insertable to the first selected location through the first element guide, the tissue treatment element being insertable through the first element guide when the first placeholder element has been separated from the handle, wherein the tissue treatment element includes an electrode, and wherein the electrode is a multi-barbed electrode.

17. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element comprises a conduit for insertion of a chemical treatment substance to the first selected location.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the tissue treatment element is coupleable to a source of electric power and employs the first placeholder element as an electrode.

19. - 27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the handle ~~includes a~~ fitting is a male luer connector and the ~~therefrom configured to be received in a correspondingly shaped~~ placeholder fitting ~~in a proximal end of the first placeholder element~~ is a female luer connector.

29. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein the tissue treatment element is removably insertable into a proximal end of the placeholder element.

30. (Currently Amended) A biopsy system comprising:

a first placeholder element insertable through tissue to a first selected location in a patient's body, the first placeholder element including a first lumen extending therethrough to a distal opening, which, when the first placeholder element is in the first selected location, is adjacent to target tissue;

a handle including a channel extending therethrough for directing elements inserted into a proximal opening of the handle to the first lumen of the first placeholder element, the handle including a handle fitting projecting distally from a distally facing

surface of the handle configured to be received by a correspondingly shaped placeholder fitting on a proximal end of the first placeholder element and to be removed from the placeholder fitting when the handle fitting and the placeholder fitting ~~being removably coupled to the first placeholder element~~ are twisted relative to each other so that the first placeholder element may be left in the first selected location;

a tissue sampling element insertable through the proximal opening of the handle and the first lumen for obtaining a sample of tissue from the first selected location, the tissue sampling element being removable from the proximal opening of the handle while leaving the first placeholder element at the first selected location; and

a tissue treatment element insertable to the first selected location through the first lumen.

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 30, wherein the handle includes a second fitting extending proximally from a proximally facing surface of the handle ~~thereform~~ configured to releasably engage a connector on the tissue sampling element.

32. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 30, wherein the handle ~~includes a~~ fitting ~~extending distally~~ is a male luer connector and the placeholder fitting is a female luer connector ~~therefrom configured to releasably engage the placeholder element~~.

33. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein the tissue treatment element is removably insertable through a proximal end of the placeholder element.